

## **4-H Youth: Building Georgia's leaders**

Enhancement request: \$250,000



It's clear that when we meet the critical needs of young people they are likely to grow into good citizens and contributing members of their families and communities. 4-H, a strong partner in Georgia's public education system and part of Cooperative Extension, offers vital youth development opportunities and education. However, almost half of our counties do not have a 4-H agent. Research shows fully staffed and funded county 4-H programs have a profound positive impact on community development. Partnerships with teachers, volunteers and community leaders to support and educate our young people is a hallmark of the Cooperative Extension's 4-H program. It is imperative that we increase faculty (agents) in Georgia's counties to deliver 4-H education and youth development. We request funding for county-based 4-H agents to focus on leadership, community empowerment and economic development.

## **Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H Youth:**

### **Enhancing health and personal responsibility for our future work force**

Enhancement request: \$200,000

Specialized Extension agents will be trained and placed in critical areas to address the serious health problems associated with childhood obesity and the sedentary lifestyles of Georgia's youth. Using research from the UGA's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and Family and Consumer Sciences, these agents will be uniquely qualified to educate and encourage young people and their families to take personal responsibility for lifestyle changes aimed at improving personal health and helping prevent chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. National health-care costs related to adult obesity range from \$98 billion to \$129 billion. Our goal is to help to reduce health-care costs to the state and promote a healthier and more productive future work force. An obese, unhealthy work force diminishes the potential economic growth of Georgia.

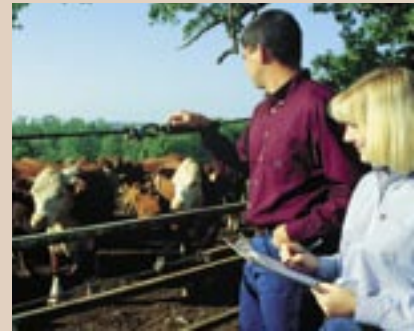


## **Animal and Poultry Sciences:**

### **Increasing the competitiveness of Georgia's vital poultry and animal sectors**

Enhancement request: \$370,000

Sustaining and creating new jobs in traditional industries is crucial to continued economic development in Georgia. Poultry and animal agriculture have strengthened small farms by providing thousands of Georgia families the opportunity to diversify their operations and sustain profitable businesses. Animal agriculture represents 59 percent of the



state's agricultural income. Georgia's poultry industry ranks first in the nation and accounts for \$4 billion in annual farm-gate value. Beef cattle and other animal agriculture contribute another \$2 billion. Animal agriculture in Georgia accounts for more than 100,000 jobs. Job and farm opportunities continue to grow. A \$100 million broiler complex is being built in south Georgia. Other companies are expanding throughout the state. For animal agriculture to remain competitive, producers need help to address waste management, soil and air quality, animal health, and agrosecurity issues. Cooperative Extension has done an exceptional job

aiding farmers with nutrient management plans, but more assistance is necessary to keep animal agriculture strong and help protect the state's environmental and natural resources. Specialized Extension agents are needed in strategic areas to address environmental issues. These animal/poultry agents will also lead 4-H poultry and animal programs, helping us strengthen that area of our animal and poultry education effort.

**Environmental Science:  
Protecting and managing  
Georgia's water resources**



**Enhancement request: \$150,000**

**C**ommunity-based Extension agents with agricultural and natural resources backgrounds are critical to managing Georgia's most precious natural resource: water. Extension wishes to establish three pilot programs to provide critical education in water quality, conservation and planning for the agriculture industry and communities. Watershed agents will train volunteers, using a system similar to Master Gardeners, to implement water conservation and water quality programs. Extension programs will be coordinated with the state Water Council. Cooperative Extension requests \$150,000 to fund agents and support for water safeguard education programs.

**Facilities:  
A place to learn**

**Enhancement request: \$301,190**

**T**he Cooperative Extension operates 684,805 square feet of space, including the recently expanded RDC in Tifton and five 4-H centers. The 4-H centers generate more than 90 percent of their operating funds and serve more than 100,000 people each year. A 1997 legislative committee recommended funding targets for Extension facilities. Based on this study, Extension has a \$1.4 million annual shortfall in maintenance-and-operation funding. Cooperative Extension's lack of maintenance-and-operation funds has forced the use of personnel and program dollars to support M&O. This redirection is impairing Extension's ability to address high-priority programs. As part of our 4-percent enhancement request, we ask for \$301,190 to help reduce this deficit.



**Georgia counties committed to Cooperative Extension.**

**Georgia counties have already committed their share of funds for the county positions in this request.**

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**The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences  
Cooperative Extension seeks a 4-percent enhancement (\$1,271,190) to address critical needs  
FY 2007**

**C**ooperative Extension, one of the university's key outreach units, provides agricultural, environmental, family and consumer sciences and 4-H educational programs to Georgia citizens. **By enhancing Extension, you can play an important part in improving the state's economic vitality.**

The Cooperative Extension faculty work to ensure that Georgians receive the latest objective, research-based information and education.

Cooperative Extension is a federal, state and local partnership. County commitment to Extension has been strongly reaffirmed and significantly increased during the past year. Each state dollar appropriated is multiplied many times by county funding, federal appropriations, private gifts and in-kind donations of time and resources. Extension seeks to focus on Georgia's critical needs and asks for 4-percent enhancement to put staff and resources in strategic locations where they are now lacking.